

THE ALTERNATIVE FUEL PRICE REPORT



This is the fourth issue of the Clean Cities Alternative Fuel Price Report, a quarterly newsletter keeping you up to date on the price of alternative fuels in the U.S. and their relation to gasoline and diesel prices. This issue discusses prices that were gathered from Clean Cities coordinators and stakeholders during the weeks of May 28 and June 4, 2001, with comparisons to the prices in the previous Price Report for the week of October 9, 2000.

Gasoline and Diesel Prices

Gasoline averaged \$1.679 per gallon nationwide during the week of June 4, 2001. This represents an increase of \$0.138 per gallon from the previous Price Report (October 2000), as illustrated in the table to the right. Prices for the various regions of the country are also illustrated in this table. (A map of the regions is shown at the bottom of this page.) During the week of June 4, prices ranged from a low of \$1.534 in the Lower Atlantic region to a high of \$1.795 on the West Coast. The price in the Midwest rose most sharply since October 2000, and only on the West Coast did prices decline slightly. These prices were obtained from the Energy Information Administration.

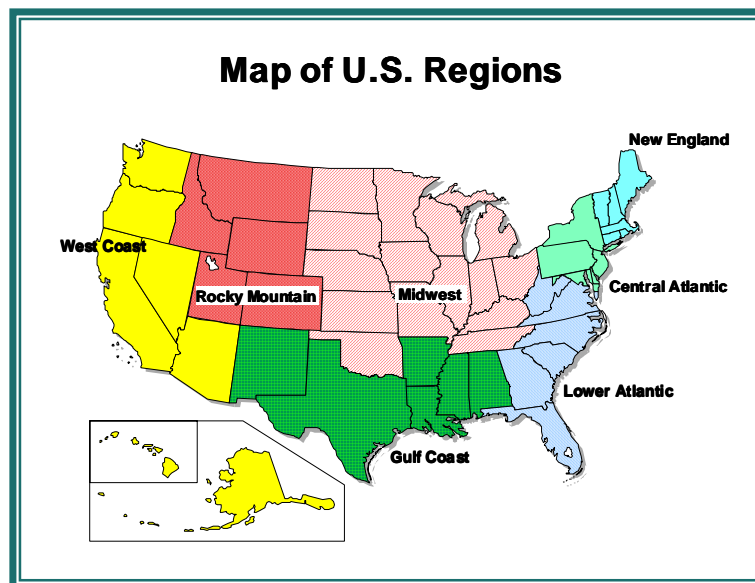
Gasoline Price Trends

	Week of 10-9-00	Week of 6-4-01	Change in Price
New England	\$1.628	\$1.751	\$0.123
Central Atlantic	\$1.596	\$1.708	\$0.112
Lower Atlantic	\$1.481	\$1.534	\$0.053
Midwest	\$1.466	\$1.739	\$0.273
Gulf Coast	\$1.465	\$1.557	\$0.092
Rocky Mountain	\$1.639	\$1.680	\$0.041
West Coast	\$1.816	\$1.795	(\$0.021)
Nationwide Average	\$1.541	\$1.679	\$0.138

Diesel fuel averaged \$1.514 per gallon nationwide during the week of June 4, 2001. This represents a decrease of \$0.100 per gallon from the previous Price Report (October 2000). Prices for the various regions of the country are also illustrated in this table. During the week of June 4, diesel prices ranged from a low of \$1.402 in the Lower Atlantic region to a high of \$1.622 in the Rocky Mountains. Between October 9 and June 4, prices for diesel dropped slightly in each region of the country. These prices were obtained from the Energy Information Administration.

Diesel Price Trends

	Week of 10-9-00	Week of 6-4-01	Change in Price
New England	\$1.678	\$1.531	(\$0.147)
Central Atlantic	\$1.665	\$1.532	(\$0.133)
Lower Atlantic	\$1.560	\$1.402	(\$0.158)
Midwest	\$1.572	\$1.561	(\$0.011)
Gulf Coast	\$1.551	\$1.450	(\$0.101)
Rocky Mountain	\$1.743	\$1.622	(\$0.121)
West Coast	\$1.843	\$1.580	(\$0.263)
Nationwide Average	\$1.614	\$1.514	(\$0.100)



Natural Gas (CNG) Prices

Natural gas (CNG) averaged \$1.30 per gasoline-gallon-equivalent (retail pump price) during the week of June 4, 2001. Prices for the various regions of the country are illustrated in the accompanying table. CNG prices range from a low of \$1.11 per GGE in the Rocky Mountain region to a high of \$1.80 per GGE on the West Coast. Prices for CNG were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. (No prices were reported from areas in the Gulf Coast region.) Average prices for CNG increased by \$0.28 per GGE between October 9, 2000, and June 4, 2001, with changes ranging from a decrease of \$0.07 per GGE in the Central Atlantic region to an increase of \$0.61 on the West Coast.

CNG Price Trends

	Week of 10-9-00	Week of 6-4-01	Change in Price
New England	\$1.14	\$1.13	(\$0.01)
Central Atlantic	\$1.36	\$1.29	(\$0.07)
Lower Atlantic	No Info	\$1.16	-
Midwest	\$0.89	\$1.14	\$0.25
Gulf Coast	\$1.24	No Info	-
Rocky Mountain	\$0.73	\$1.11	\$0.38
West Coast	\$1.19	\$1.80	\$0.61
Nationwide Average	\$1.02	\$1.30	\$0.28

Propane Prices

Propane for vehicles averaged \$1.28 per gallon (retail pump price) during the week of January 29, 2001. This translates to about \$1.72 per gasoline gallon equivalent. Prices for the various regions of the country are illustrated in the accompanying table. Propane prices range from a low of \$0.89 per gallon (\$1.20 per GGE) in the Lower Atlantic region to a high of \$1.65 per gallon (\$2.22 per GGE) in New England. Prices for propane were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. (No prices were reported from areas in the Central Atlantic or Gulf Coast regions.) Average prices for propane increased by \$0.01 per gallon (\$0.013 per GGE) between October 9, 2000, and June 4, 2001, with increases of as much as \$0.66 per gallon (\$0.89 per GGE) in the New England region. The Midwest region saw a decline in propane prices of \$0.41 per gallon (\$0.55 per GGE) during this time period.

Propane Price Trends

	Week of 10-9-00	Week of 6-4-00	Change in Price
New England	\$0.99	\$1.65	\$0.66
Central Atlantic	No Info	No Info	-
Lower Atlantic	No Info	\$0.89	-
Midwest	\$1.34	\$0.93	(\$0.41)
Gulf Coast	\$1.14	No Info	-
Rocky Mountain	No Info	\$1.24	-
West Coast	No Info	\$1.52	-
Nationwide Average	\$1.27	\$1.28	\$0.01

Electricity Prices

Electricity prices in our survey averaged \$0.074 per kilowatt-hour during the week of June 4, 2001. Prices for the various regions of the country are illustrated in the accompanying table. Prices for electricity were collected from across the country by Clean Cities Coordinators and DOE Regional Office contacts. Based on the information received, no significant changes in electricity prices have occurred on a nationwide basis.

Electricity Price Trends

	Week of 10-9-00	Week of 6-4-01	Change in Price
New England	No Info	\$0.084	-
Central Atlantic	No Info	No Info	-
Lower Atlantic	No Info	\$0.069	-
Midwest	\$0.07	\$0.066	-
Gulf Coast	\$0.07	No Info	-
Rocky Mountain	No Info	\$0.076	-
West Coast	No Info	\$0.078	-
Nationwide Average	\$0.07	\$0.074	-

One method for comparing electricity to conventional fuels is to calculate the fuel cost per year for sample vehicles. The table to the right illustrates three sample electric vehicles; the Ford Ranger, the Chevrolet S10, and the GM EV1. Fuel costs per year were calculated based upon EPA-published fuel economy ratings for gasoline vehicles (in MPG) and for electric vehicles (in kilowatt-hours per mile). Each vehicle was assumed to travel 12,000 miles per year, and fuel costs were taken from the above averages for gasoline (\$1.679) and electricity (\$0.074). The gasoline counterpart to the Nissan Altra was the Nissan Sentra, a compact car that could serve the same fleet purpose as the compact electric Altra.

Annual Fuel Cost Comparison

	Electric Vehicle	Gasoline Vehicle
Ford Ranger	\$360	\$840
Toyota Rav4	\$290	\$780
Nissan Altra	\$250	\$780

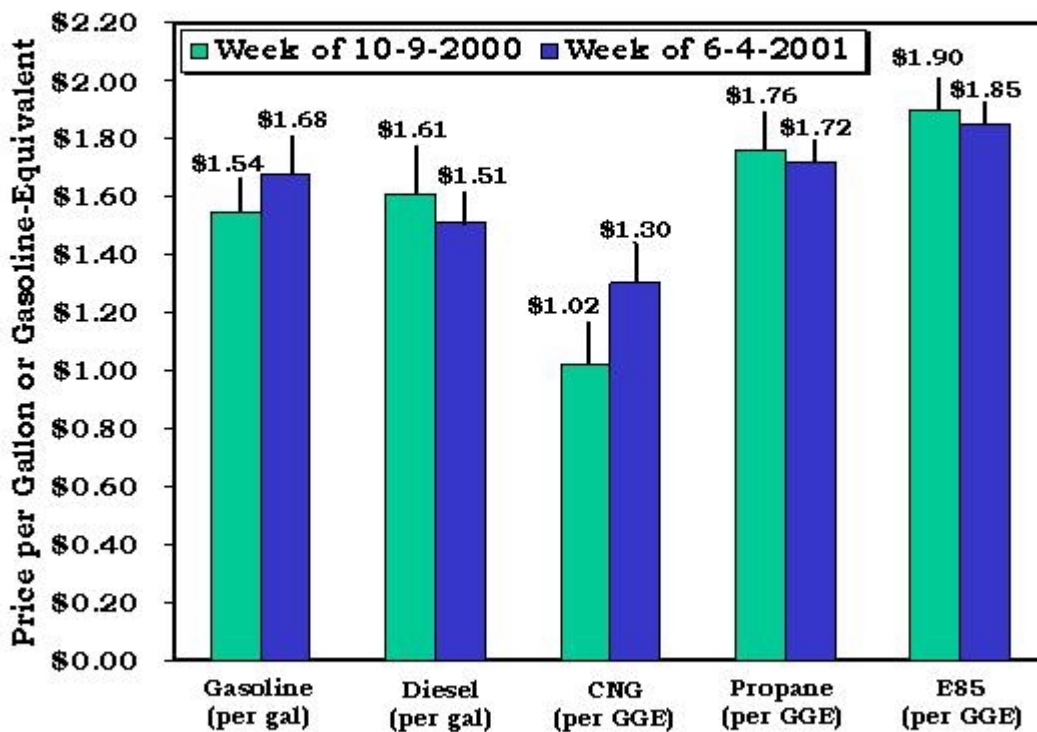
For the week of June 4, 2001, E85 prices were obtained from the Central Atlantic, Lower Atlantic, Midwest, and Rocky Mountains for this survey. The average price from the locations surveyed was \$1.48 per gallon, or \$1.85 per gasoline-gallon equivalent.¹ This price represents a decrease of \$0.04 per gallon between October 9, 2000, and June 4, 2001.

	Week of 10-9-00	Week of 6-4-01	Change in Price
New England	No Info	No Info	-
Central Atlantic	No Info	\$1.59	-
Lower Atlantic	No Info	\$1.79	-
Midwest	\$1.52	\$1.18	(\$0.34)
Gulf Coast	\$1.55	No Info	-
Rocky Mountain	No Info	\$1.18	-
West Coast	No Info	No Info	-
Nationwide Average	\$1.52	\$1.48	(\$0.04)

Summary

During the week of June 4, 2001, gasoline prices were higher than they had been during the week of October 9, 2000 (the time period of the previous Price Report). Diesel prices, however, were lower. The price of natural gas rose significantly between October 9, 2000, and June 4, 2001, accounting for the increase in CNG fuel prices. Propane and E85 prices both decreased slightly between October 9, 2000, and June 4, 2001. The graph below illustrates the relative prices of gasoline, diesel, CNG, propane, and E85.

Selected Fuel Prices in the U.S.



¹ Includes a 10% decrease in energy use per mile for E85 relative to gasoline.



Do you have fuel prices you wish to share for inclusion in the next newsletter? To do so, contact:

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